IN THE UNITED STATES RECEIVING OFFICE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Richard Mertens and Olaf Höller

Application Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: November 25, 2003

For: SUPERABSORBENT POLYMERS, PREPARATION THEREOF AND USE

THEREOF

Mail Stop DD Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, counsel wishes to make of record the attached items of information for the Examiner's consideration in connection with this application. Also enclosed is form PTO/SB/08A for the Examiner's convenience in making such consideration of record. Inclusion herein of any particular item of information is not to be construed as an admission that same is prior art.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2190.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip P. McCarin

Registration No. 30,919

Smith Moore LLP

P.O. Box 21927

Greensboro, NC 27420

(336) 378-5302

Date: November 25, 2003

File No.: 5003073-049US1

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE VIA EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313, ON November 25, 2003 Date of Deposit)

Malinda Spencer
Name of Depositor

Signature

Express Mail No.:

EV 204405899 US

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Complete if Known INFORMATION DISCLOSURE **Application Number** To be assigned November 25, 2003 Filing Date STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Richard Mertens Group Art Unit To be assigned (use as many sheets as necessary) **Examiner Name** To be assigned Sheet of 4 5003073-049US1 Attorney Docket Number

			U.S. PATENT I	DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Document Number Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevan Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US- RE 31,323	7/26/1983	Marder et al.	. 190.007. \$5500.
	2	US- RE 32,649	4/19/1988	Brandt et al.	
	3	US- 2,639,239	5/19/1953	E.S. Elliott	
	4	US- 3,247,171	4/19/1966	The Dow Chemical Co.	
	5	US- 3,589,364	6/29/1971	Dean et al.	
•	6	US- 4,043,952	8/23/1977	Ganslaw et al.	
	7	US- 4,051,086	9/27/1977	Reid	
	8	US- 4,640,810	2/3/1987	Laursen et al.	
	9	US- 4,689,408	8/25/1987	Gelman et al.	
	10	US- 4,952,550	8/28/1990	Wallach et al.	
	11	US- 4,959,341	9/25/1990	Wallach	
	12	US- 5,247,072	9/21/1993	Ning et al.	
	13	US- 5,247,964	9/28/1993	DeLange	
	14	US- 5,252,340	10/12/1993	Honeycutt	
	15	US- 5,470,964	11/28/1995	Qin	
	16	US- 5,532,350	7/2/1996	Cottrell et al.	
	17	US- 5,550,189	8/27/1996	Qin et al.	
	18	US- 5,669,894	9/23/1997	Goldman et al.	
	19	US- 5,807,116	9/15/1998	Kitatani et al.	
	20	US- 5,811,531	9/22/1998	Iguchi et al.	

		FOREIGN PA	TENT DOCU	MENTS		
Examiner	Cite	Foreign Patent Document	Publication	Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant	
Initials*	No.1	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)	Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	21	DE 42 06 857 A1	3/5/1992	Chemische		
	22	DE 44 18 319 A1	5/26/1994	Chemische		
	23	DE 195 05 709 A1	2/20/1995	Chemische		
	24	DE 196 54 745 A1	12/30/199 6	Lechner, M.D.		
	25	DE 197 50 890 A1	11/18/199 7	Maksimow, A.		
	26	DE 198 07 501 C1	2/21/1998	Clariant		
	27	DE 198 07 504 A1	2/21/1998	BASF AG		
	28	DE 199 09 653 A1	3/5/1999	Stockhausen		
	29	EP 0 538 904 A2	4/28/1993	Kimberly-Clark		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) . ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.
³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

5003073-049US1

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Attorney Docket Number

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Complete if Known **Application Number** To be assigned INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date November 24, 2003 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor **Richard Mertens** Group Art Unit To be assigned (use as many sheets as necessary) **Examiner Name** To be assigned

Sheet

		OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T²
	А	SIBEL SUNGUR, "Investigation on Drug Release Systems Using CMC Crosslinked with Ferric Ions", Art Cells, Blood Subs., And Immob. Biotech, (1999) 27 (3). 279-290	
		·	

Examiner	,	Date	
Signature		Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Complete if Known INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Application Number To be assigned Filing Date November 25, 2003 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Richard Mertens Group Art Unit To be assigned (use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name To be assigned Sheet of 4 Attorney Docket Number 5003073-049US1

			U.S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS		
Examiner	Cito	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevan	
Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Cited Document	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-			**	
		US-				
		US-				
,		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				

		FOREIGN PA	TENT DOCU	MENTS		
5	0.11-	Foreign Patent Document	5	Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines,	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	30	EP 0 538 904 B1	4/28/1993	Kimberly-Clark		
	31	EP 0 566 118 B1	10/20/199 3	Kimberly-Clark		
	32	EP 0 614 914 B1	9/14/1994	FIDIA S.p.A.		
	33	EP 0 637 594 A2	2/8/1995	Nippon		
	34	EP 0637 594 B1	2/8/1995	Nippon		
	35	EP 0 850 615 A1	7/1/1998	Procter & Gamble		
	36	EP 0 855 405 A1	1/21/1998	Degussa AG		
	37	JP 2001 114803	4/24/2001	Unitika Ltd.		
	38	JP 3 285919	12/17/199 1	Sekisui Plastics		

Examiner	Date
Signature	Considered
Olgitature	Considered

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

0

Substitut	e for form 1449A/PTC)			Complete if Known	
INFO	RMATION	DIS	CLOSURE	Application Number	To be assigned	
			PPLICANT	Filing Date	November 25, 2003	
		0 2-4		First Named Inventor	Richard Mertens	
				Group Art Unit	To be assigned	
	(use as many she	ets as	necessary)	Examiner Name	To be assigned	
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	5003073-049US1	

	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Ci Initials * No	Cite No.1	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevan			
	No.'	Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	_	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear			
	ļ	US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-						
		US-		J.				
		US-						
		US-						
·····	1	US-						
		US-						
		US-						

		FOREIGN PA	TENT DOCU	MENTS		
Examiner Initials*	0.11	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines,	
	Cite No. ¹	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	39	JP 6 3037143	2/17/1988	Daicel Chem.		
	40	JP 9 087956	3/31/1997	OJI Paper Co.		
	41	WO 95/11925	5/4/1995	Kimberly- Clark		
	42	WO 99/49905	10/7/1999	BASF Corp.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
	 	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) . ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.
³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.